HEAL
15 OCT 42
O.R. 271

MINISTRY OF HEALTH LIBRARY

OSGOLDCROSS RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1941.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Owing to continuing exigencies it is requested that annual reports be again made brief, and with this need in view, I now present my Annual Report for the year 1941.

GENERAL STATISTICS

The area of the district continues at 33,970 acres.	
Population, mid-year, Registrar General's estimate	7,631
Number of inhabited houses at end of 1941	2,126
Rateable Value	£28,945
Sum represented by 1d Rate	£113

The population number is 275 above that for the preceding year. Movements of people in and out of the district in connection with the Forces and otherwise, make this number difficult to check, but it agrees approximately with our own estimate, and includes women and children who came into the district under Government Evacuation Schemes. The highest number of persons in the district under the Evacuation Schemes at any time was 424 which was reduced at the end of the year to 278.

There were also further movements of Military personnel in and out of the district.

VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	70	61	131
Illegitimate	5	5	10
Totals	75	66	141

Birth Rate per 1,000 population - 18.48

Still Births			
Legitimate	-	1	1
Illegitimate	1	-	1
Totals	1	1	2

Rate per 1,000 (Live and Still) Births - 13.98
Rate per 1,000 population - - - - - - - - .26

DEATHS

	Male	Female	Total
All Causes	61	35	96

Death Rate per 1,000 population - 12.58

Puerperal causes	0	2	2
Cancer	11	5	16
Measles	0	0	0
Whooping Cough	1	2	3
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	1	2	3

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age :-

All Infants per 1,000 Live Births - 67.57
There were no deaths of Illegitimate Infants

The Birth Rate at 18.48 is appreciably higher than that for the Country, which is 14.2. The rate for the district shows a slight increase, and that for the Country a slight decrease on the preceding year.

The Death Rate for the Country at 12.9 however shows a decrease from 14.3 for the preceding year, whilst this district shows an increase from 11.9 to 12.58.

It is possible that the increase may be partly accounted for by the absence of a comparability factor which is usually supplied by the Registrar General to allow for uneven populations and local circumstances etc. The difficulties of arriving at such a factor have become so great under present national circumstances, that the issue of the comparability factor has been suspended.

In spite of this, however, it will be noted that the Birth and Death Rates for the district compare favourably with those for the Country.

The Infantile Death Rate for the Country is 59, a little increase on last year. The Rate for this district increased to 67.57 from 31.25 last year, which was particularly low. The three cases concerned were premature births (2) and congenital malformation.

There were 3 deaths from Diarrhoea of children under 2 years old, giving a Rate of 20 per 1000 live births against 5.1 for the Country.

Principal causes of Death

The cause of the highest number of deaths was Heart Disease, which was the same as last year, 27. Pneumonia was also the same, 4, and Bronchitis was down from 12 to 6. It is regretable to record, however, that Cancer accounted for double last year's number, and amounted to 16.

Infectious Diseases

	No. of cases Notified	No. of Deaths
Scarlet Fever	17	0
Whooping Cough	26	3
Diphtheria	10	0
Paratyphoid Fever	1	0
Measles	29	0
Pneumonia	8	4
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	0
Cerebro Spinal Menigitis	2	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum.	1	0
Tuberculosis		
Pulmonary	2	2
Other forms	1	1

A small number of children were immunised against Diphtheria, and it is hoped a large percentage of the children will have been treated by the end of 1942.

The 3 cases of Tuberculosis notified are the lowest recorded for the district.

In spite of military and civilian movements and operations and all present day circumstances, there was no marked effect on the general health, which remained normal.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES. and other items are covered by the report of your Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Ledwith.

There is no other matter which it appears necessary to report or call attention to, and I conclude with thanks for consideration shown to me by you during the year.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J. KEHELLY

Medical Officer of Health.

OSGOLDCROSS RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT OF SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR 1941.

NUISANCES.

Number of primary inspections		218
Number of cases in which nuisance found	186	
Number outstanding 1940	9	195
Abated 1941		181
Outstanding		14

No Statutory Notices were served.

The number relating to defective conditions at houses was 147.

HOUSING.

Action under Housing Acts and Regulations.

Number of houses inspected and recorded 17
One defective, remainder satisfactory.
One unfit house rendered fit.
None closed or demolished.

Action under Public Health Acts in addition to action as mentioned under "Nuisances".

Houses examined for vermin	4
Disinfested	4
Houses inspected in connection with water supply, sanitary accommodation, etc. . . .	44
Houses at which work required or undertaken	33
Houses at which work completed	23

No statutory Notices were served.

There were no houses erected during the year.
The number of houses in the district at the end of the year was 2139.

WATER.

There were no major extensions or other developments regarding the water supplies. Quantities have been fully maintained and adequate, though there appears to be a little difficulty at times as to pressure at Fairburn.
The quality of the piped supplies continued satisfactory. The greater part of the district is supplied from the Pontefract Corporation Water Works. Seven samples of this were taken from various parts of the district at intervals and submitted for bacteriological examination. One sample was reported doubtful but check samples and the remainder of samples taken were pronounced satisfactory. Darrington is supplied by a private estate water works. Three samples taken at intervals were submitted for bacteriological examination and all were satisfactory. From a private well serving a group of houses a sample of water submitted for analysis was reported to be doubtful and the owner has been approached with a view to a supply being taken from the Council's main.
A number of samples taken from public pumps regarded as available for emergency use were submitted for analysis, one of which was found doubtful and the others satisfactory.

SCAVENGING

Contracts expired at mid-year and the fears expressed in my report for last year that there might be difficulty in obtaining fresh contracts were justified. There were no tenders for the bulk of the work and the Council decided to do the work by direct labour. A Karrier-Bantam refuse removal vehicle was purchased but was not delivered until the end of the year. In the meantime a lorry, with driver, was hired and two men engaged as loaders. This team carried out all the work previously done by contractors with the addition of the refuse removal from East Hardwick, which was undertaken by the Council as from July. There had previously been no public scavenging in this Parish but difficulty in getting the work done otherwise led the Council to take over responsibility for it.

In some cases emptying of conveniences may not have been carried out quite so frequently as under previous arrangements, but in cases needing it attention has been paid more frequently. In general, places have been kept in a satisfactory condition as regards scavenging and the work has been carried out better than under former arrangements. With the use of our own (new) vehicle it is anticipated that there will be further improvement in the service.

Seventeen other types of closets were converted to or substituted by water-closets, including 8 at Burton Salmon Schools. In 2 cases a contribution was paid by the Council. Three additional water closets to serve existing houses and one to serve a gun post were also constructed. In the district at the end of the year there were approximately 1587 water closets, 1213 privies and 1677 dust bins.

SALVAGE.

In many districts, perhaps most, salvaging from waste is largely a matter of sorting out what is useful from refuse normally collected or additional material collected in the same way, and is a development of the scavenging service.

Such was not the case in this district, however, various circumstances rendering this impracticable. Salvaging from waste therefore has been dealt with as an entirely separate service. In spite of voluntary efforts and help locally in the villages, the cost of recovering material from the scattered district and the labour entailed in dealing with it at the central depot has been rather more than the amount obtained by the sale of the material.

In the year ended 31st March, 1942, for which there was a deficit of £17, the undermentioned materials were sold:-

	Tons	Cwt.	Qrs.	lbs.
Paper and Cardboard	15	11	0	20
Textiles (mixed rags, old sacking)	2	3	2	7
Bones		11	2	6
Tins (mostly unflattened)	23	3	2	0
Other iron	12	6	3	0
Other metals		6	2	14
Broken glass	15	9	2	0
Glass bottles	6¼ gross			
Glass jars	18½ gross			

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The number of cases of Scarlet Fever notified increased from 12 the previous year to 17. The highest monthly figure was 4 in June, the cases being widely separated. The first case of the year occurred in May. Six of the cases occurred at Hillam and appear to have been more or less connected.

Diphtheria increased from 4 cases in 1940 to 10. The first case occurred in March, the next cases being in August and September and October, and 4 in December. They were widely distributed through the district.

In the one case of Paratyphoid Fever which occurred no indication of the source of infection was traced, the case was a mild one, recovered in good time and there were no further developments.

There were only 3 fresh cases of Tuberculosis notified, 2 being pulmonary, This is the lowest number notified in the district since the boundary alterations,

and probably the lowest for the same area since notification has been in operation.

There were again 2 cases of Cerebro Spinal Meningitis, one proving fatal within a few hours of the first symptons.

The 29 cases of Measles notified occurred in the first half of the year, chiefly at Womersley, Whitley, Eggborough and Kellington.

The 26 cases of Whooping Cough notified occurred from February to May and August to October, chiefly at Beal, Kellington and Womersley.

Disinfection was carried out at 26 houses.

Disinfection or closure of schools was not found necessary.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

Slaughtering of animals for human food continued under the direct control of the Government, none taking place within this district. The conduct of the sales side of the butchers businesses has been satisfactory.

MILK AND DAIRIES.

There were few changes in the Register of premises for the production of milk, the number remaining at about 95. The cows concerned numbered some 570, the milk being wholesaled in 37 cases and retailed in 21 cases. The remainder of the producers made butter or merely sold small quantities of milk to their neighbours when they had it to spare and could scarcely be regarded as traders. There were also 7 retailers registered who were not producers, two of whom had no premises in the district.

During the year one producer of Accredited Milk gave up (on account of war circumstances), leaving 3 producers of this grade of Milk. One Supplementary Licence to sell Pasteurised Milk was in force.

Some 140 visits were paid, chiefly to the more important premises. It cannot be said that conditions were maintained quite up to the pre-war standard. but generally speaking, producers made good efforts in their difficulties and attended reasonably well to matters to which their attention was drawn.

It was gratifying to notice that the cleanliness of the cows was well maintained.

During the year 4 new cowsheds were constructed from existing buildings and one cowshed enlarged. Two milk rooms were constructed and fitted with coolers and a cooler was installed at another dairy. A few minor improvements were also carried out.

Activities in respect of Housing have been much curtailed on account of difficulties regardinglabour and materials.

Much time has been taken up by salvage operations.

Emergency Mortuary Services have been organised in connection with civilian deaths due to war operations and a temporary mortuary has been adapted at Whitley. Use of the permanent Mortuary at Brotherton has also been arranged for in this connection.

A scheme for decontamination of foodstuffs which may be affected by war gas has been formulated and is being developed.

GORDON LEDWITH

Sanitary Inspector.